

**From:** Fred Hamilton  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 10:17pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Hello,

Fir the record, I'm extremely disappointed with the Microsoft settlement. I feel like the DOJ has caved in, for whatever reasons, to a monopolist. Microsoft's unchallenged strength and domination of computing has caused the following business and societal ills:

**\*Loss of Innovation\***

Innovative companies with products far superior to Microsoft's have been driven out of business by Microsoft's deep pockets and uncompetitive practices. For example, Be. The BeOS was better in almost every way to Windows, but Microsoft used their clout to prevent any PC manufacturer from even offering it as an OPTION. Needless to say, Netscape is a shell of its former self because Microsoft could spend millions (or billions) developing Internet Explorer and giving it away until Netscape lost.

**\*Privatization of Open Standards\***

Microsoft is trying to co-opt the internet by not being compatible with open standards (HTML, SHTML, Java, etc.), and using its enormous clout to force people to move to Microsoft-flavored versions of these standards. Web sites must support the Microsoft-flavored versions, since Microsoft's Internet explorer is used by something like 90% of the Internet. This means anyone trying to compete with Microsoft in web browsing or similar tools is chasing a moving target. Since NO COMPANY ON EARTH has enough money to chase Microsoft, the competition dies or never starts in the first place. The internet is based on open standards - allowing Microsoft to continue to do this means giving them almost complete control over the most important communication and data transfer technology in history. Talk about monopolies...

**\*Security Vulnerabilites\***

I don't have the exact number, but apparently computer viruses have cost businesses around the world (but primarily in the US) BILLIONS of dollars. Now, if you look at the big viruses that have made the news and cost the most money, they were all spread by Microsoft products! Ah, but if Microsoft has 90% market share, that's too be expected, right? Perhaps Microsoft can be forgiven for the first few, but Microsoft has consistently NOT fixed or changed code in Microsoft Outlook and Internet Explorer and IIS that is easily exploited by any hacker with a mind to.

There are a lot of other issues, but these are the three big ones and I don't want to make a career out of writing this email. But to summarize:

You are letting a monopolist responsible for uncompetitively and illegally

killing competition, stifling innovation, co-opting the most important technology on Earth, and being (mostly) directly responsible for BILLIONS of dollars lost due to viruses and security attacks, off the hook with a little slap on the cheek.

Even a very pro-business administration such as yours should be able to see the danger of letting this monster grow unchecked. Please reconsider how you are handling this case.

Best regards,  
Fred

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